

# JUSTICE FOR ALL



Dear Friends,  
September 11, 2001, is a date none of us will ever forget. On that Tuesday morning, everything we stand for as Americans was brutally attacked by a group of terrorists whom President Bush accurately called "faceless cowards." The targets of these attacks were everyday people, going about their day and enjoying the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. Among the victims were also courageous members of law enforcement and firefighters who perished while trying to help their fellow citizens.

There is not a single patriotic person who was not affected by those horrific events. And in the weeks and months to come, we will all have feelings of anger, frustration, and fear. In this issue of Justice For All, we have included some tips from national victim assistance organizations on how we can all face these traumatic events.

We will recover from this attack on our nation. We will pay tribute to those who have fallen. We will see that those who are responsible for the atrocity are brought to justice. Ultimately, I believe this country will become stronger in our unity and resolve as we continue to defend the American way of life.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla J. Stovall".

Carla J. Stovall, Attorney General

## FALL 2001

**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CARLA J. STOVALL  
CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS NEWSLETTER**

120 SW 10th Ave, 2nd Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612-1597  
785-296-2215  
1-800-828-9745  
[www.ink.org/public/ksag](http://www.ink.org/public/ksag)



# Community Trauma Recovery Tips

Additional information about recovering from trauma can be found by contacting the following organizations:

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)

(214) 744-6233

National Center for Victims of Crime

[www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

(202) 467-8714

National Organization for Victim Assistance

[www.try-nova.org](http://www.try-nova.org)

(202) 494-8000

National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

888-818-7662

Victims of the tragedy and their families can find further information at the Department of Justice's Victims and Family Assistance website

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov)

In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks, a coalition of victim assistance organizations has provided some information on how communities and individuals can address the traumatic events. While reaching out to the victims of the tragedy, citizens and community leaders should also consider the needs and distresses which are closer to home. Here are some tips from America's leading crime victim assistance organizations to help everyone care for themselves and others within their communities.

- **Make note of volunteer opportunities.**

As the media reports on the needs of the local community, make a note of them and decide where you can make the greatest impact. You can't do everything – but you can do something.

- **Be aware if your community has previously experienced a community trauma.** Communities in which other mass tragedies have happened need to care for one another with extra sensitivity. Trauma reaction is nearly always worse for those previously victimized. Join a coalition to plan events and support for the community as well as those who were most directly affected by the previous trauma.

- **Reach out to those of Middle Eastern descent.** Some of your neighbors are being frightened and even harmed simply because they share cultural similarities to those who

have been accused of the attacks. Tell your neighbors that we stand in solidarity as Americans, regardless of our differences.

- **Thank the crisis workers in your community.** Write a thank-you note to your local police and fire departments for efforts to keep your community safe. Write a note to area blood banks for their noble efforts. Thank schoolteachers and counselors for their efforts to make our children feel safe and secure. Thank your broadcast and print journalists for their round-the-clock work to keep the community informed.
- **Attend vigils and prayer services.** Not only will you feel better for doing so, but as media covers these events you help signal to the world that America will not be overcome. Organize a prayer chain within your faith community with someone praying around the clock. Plan a candlelight memorial to honor those most directly affected.
- **Display a symbol of your patriotism.** Hang an American flag from your house. Wear a red, white, and blue ribbon on your lapel. Design and distribute a patriotic bumper sticker or write a supportive message on your car window.
- **Design a project for children.** Thousands of children are now without a parent as a result of this tragedy. Your community's children might want to collect comforting toys or dolls for those children or write them notes. Many charities have toy donation programs.

The coalition of crime victim assistance organizations which provided this information and the following information on tips for children include: Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists, California Crime Victim Compensation Board, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance, Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Joint Center on Violence and Victim Studies, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) National Office, National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, National Association of Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Administrators, National Center for Victims of Crime, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

# Trauma Recovery Tips for Children

The national crime victim assistance organizations say children are especially vulnerable to the trauma and unforgettable images stemming from the national tragedy. Children under the age of five won't fully understand what has happened, but they will pick up on the reactions of those around them. Adolescents will respond much the same as adults. Here are some tips that concerned parents and other adults can use to respond sensitively and appropriately, and to help our children feel physically and emotionally safe.

- **Be calm.** Children mirror the reactions of their parents and caregivers. It is fine to share feelings of sorrow which can encourage the children to express their own sadness. However, express your more intense reactions, such as horror and outrage with other adults, outside the presence of children.
- **Tell the truth but don't give more information than is requested.** Allow children to ask questions, listen carefully and thoughtfully, and then answer them. Don't be surprised if they ask a question and then ask it again later. They are only trying to reassure themselves and feel more secure. Children deal with trauma in small segments. Never force a child to talk about it if he or she doesn't want to.
- **Stay home during the evenings.** Limit separation as much as possible.
- **Allow more telephone contact than usual.** Encourage your children to call you at work, or wherever you may be, if they feel afraid or if something upsetting has happened.
- **Reassure the children that you are their protector.** Tell them that not only you, but everyone in the nation, is working hard to see that something like this never happens again. If your child seems more fearful than usual about going to bed, encourage sleeping with favorite toys, blankets, or perhaps allowing a pet to stay in the room. Use night lights.
- **Limit television to a few segments and sit with your child as it is viewed.** Children should not be exposed to terrifying imagery by

themselves. Touch them or hold them if they will allow it.

- **Refrain from calling a child “a baby” if he or she is crying or fearful.** The child is reacting authentically. Instead, comfort and support them rather than tell children to be “big boys and girls.”
- **Recognize that some children will reenact what happened through play or artwork.** It can be empowering for children to play with toy fire trucks and to use the ladders to rescue people and put out fires. Some may draw rescue efforts. If you see reenacting play or art, ask your child to talk about it with you.
- **Encourage children to help.** Children may want to collect money to send to one of the organizations providing direct assistance. They may want to make a poster for the teacher’s lounge at their school asking adults to donate blood. They may want to write a note or color a picture for someone in the community who is directly affected by the tragedy. They may want to say a prayer for those who are hurt.
- **Some children, especially young children, may regress for a while.** Previously mastered skills such as sleeping alone, dressing without help, and toilet training may be lost for a while. Children should not be disciplined for these regressions.
- **Watch for signs of more serious problems.** These might include failing grades, avoiding relationships other than those with whom they feel most secure, general irritability, sleeping problems, and eating significantly more or less than usual. Seek professional assistance through your child’s school or an outside agency if you are concerned.

## Helpful Websites

American Academy of  
Child Adolescent  
Psychiatry  
[www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org)

APA Online: Help with  
Trauma  
[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

Emergency Services and  
Disaster Relief Branch,  
Center for Mental Health  
[www.mentalhealth.org](http://www.mentalhealth.org)

FEMA for Kids  
[www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)

Helping Children and  
Adolescents Cope with  
Violence and Disasters  
[www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)

National Association of  
School Psychologists  
[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)

National Center for Post-  
Traumatic Stress Disorder  
[www.ncptsd.org](http://www.ncptsd.org)

US Government Informa-  
tion and Resources in  
Response to September  
11th Events  
[www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)

# Children's Advocacy Centers

Communication between agencies is one of the best weapons against child abuse. Law enforcement, the medical community, children's services, and other public and private entities have as part of their mission to protect the safety of children. But too often, the actions or reports taken by one group are unknown to another. That is where the National Children's Alliance (NCA) and local Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) come in.

The NCA, formerly the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, was founded in 1987 in Madison County, Alabama. At that time a growing number of child abuse intervention programs were being implemented, but they needed guidance, training, and common standards to effectively coordinate the work of programs and agencies. Today, the not-for-profit organization is based in Washington, D.C. and provides training, technical assistance, and networking to communities and member agencies wanting to implement and improve CAC programs. They are assisted by Regional Children's Advocacy Centers across the country, and through funding by the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

CAC's are community-based programs comprised of a multi-disciplinary team to handle reports of possible child abuse and neglect. They provide a comprehensive, child-focused program which brings together members of law enforcement, child protection services, medical and mental health communities, and prosecutors. According to the NCA, the overall goal is to make sure that children are not further victimized by systems designed to protect them.

A community's Children's Advocacy Center is typically located in a "child friendly" facility, which has a warm, non-threatening environment. Here, a number of interviews can be conducted while the facility makes the child as comfortable as possible. Joint investigative interviews, foren-

sic interviews, medical examinations and interpretations, therapeutic interventions and victim support can all be done at the centers, as well as other programs and educational efforts. The team would then be involved in aspects of prosecution and case tracking.

The benefits of the CAC include the ability to consistently and quickly follow up on reports of child abuse and neglect. There can be effective medical and mental health services or referrals, which can result in a reduction in the number of interviews needed with the child. Meanwhile, the Regional Children's Advocacy Centers can help assess a community's ability to provide services, develop a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary response to abuse, and develop and negotiate interagency agreements and protocols. Further, they can assist in the identification and development of funding and marketing strategies, and increase the understanding and awareness of child abuse in the community.

## CAC Contacts

Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center  
347 N. Smith Avenue  
Garden View Bldg. #401  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 220-6750  
888-422-2955  
e-mail: [MRCAC@childrenshc.org](mailto:MRCAC@childrenshc.org)

National Children's Alliance  
1-800-239-9950  
[www.nca-online.org](http://www.nca-online.org)

## Mark Your Calendar

Attorney General's  
Crime Victims'  
Rights Conference  
April 17-18, 2002  
Capital Plaza  
Topeka

National Crime  
Victims' Rights  
Week  
"Bringing Honor to  
Victims"  
Colors: Gold and  
White  
April 21-27, 2002

Corrections:  
The previous issue's article on  
"Tougher DUI Penalties" had  
some incorrect information  
regarding 3rd Convictions. It  
should read that the range for  
the Criminal Fine is \$1,500 to  
\$2,500, and the Administrative  
Reinstatement fee for test  
refusal is \$800. We regret the  
errors.



# Changes in the Kansas Offender Registration Act

Effective July 1, 2001, the following amendments were made to the Kansas Offender Registration Act, KSA 22-4901:

1. Requires non-resident persons coming into Kansas to work or be a student (full or part-time) for more than 14 days, or an aggregate period exceeding 30 days in a calendar year, to register in Kansas. They have 10 days from the commencement of the date of employment or school term to register with the sheriff of the county they will be living in. These individuals only have a duty to register in Kansas during the duration of their employment or school attendance. Therefore, when there is any change or termination of employment or attendance, they must notify the sheriff and the KBI in writing within 10 days of the termination or change.
2. Any Kansas resident required to register must also be informed of the duty to register in any state or county where the offender is employed, carries on a vocation, or is a student.

As of the first week in September, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reported the following listing of registered offenders:

Open Record: 1535  
Criminal Justice Use Only: 301  
Absconders: 129  
Warrants Issued: 33  
New / Processing: 87

Total: 2085

3. Any person who is a Kansas resident who has been required to register under any federal, military, or other state's law will be required to register in Kansas. Offenders still have to register even if their conviction was prior to Kansas' effective registration date for that offense. (For example, California registers a person for convictions since 1944, while Missouri's law goes back to 1979.) This is to prevent offenders from moving to Kansas to escape registration requirements in other states.

4. The definition of a "sexually violent predator" was added to the Act in reference to KSA 59-



29a01. Any person who has been declared a “sexually violent predator” shall register for the person’s lifetime.

5. All references in KSA 22-4908 allowing a sentencing court the opportunity to relieve an offender of the duty to register before his or her period of registration has expired has been stricken pursuant to federal law.

## NAAG Initiatives

Attorney General Stovall, in her role as the 2000/2001 president of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), recently announced her Presidential Initiatives on issues she believes should receive national attention.

One of the issues she has chosen is to increase awareness throughout the country on crimes which affect children. In particular, she hopes to heighten visibility and participation in projects designed to keep children safe. The projects include Code Adam, in which retail store employees are trained to help find children who are lost or abducted within their stores; the Amber Plan, which links broadcasters and law enforcement to quickly publicize serious child abduction cases; and KidCare, which is a partnership between the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Polaroid to provide free photo ID’s to parents and caregivers for identification of their children.

Another one of General Stovall’s initiatives is to increase the awareness and respect for law enforcement officers across the country. Especially in light of the recent terrorism attacks, Attorney General Stovall believes these brave men and women should be respected and congratulated for all they do to keep our communities safe.

# Crime Victims Compensation Board

If you or someone you know is a victim of a violent crime, help may be available through the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board (CVCB). This three-person board is appointed by the Attorney General, with the board's chair required to be an attorney. Eligible claims are prepared by investigative staff, reviewed by the executive director, and presented to the board at monthly meetings for final determinations. Supplemental claims are reviewed by the director.

The CVCB is funded in part through fines, penalties, and forfeitures from the district courts, along with inmate contributions, inmate supervision fees, and an annual Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant.

## Eligibility Requirements for Claims:

- Must be filed within two years of the incident. (Cases of child sexual assault are based on the date the crime was reported to law enforcement).
- Victim suffered bodily injury, including mental disorder or death, as a result of the criminal actions of another.
- The incident occurred in Kansas.
- The incident was reported to law enforcement officials within 72 hours, or would have been reported within that time except for a valid reason.
- The claimant (and/or victim) fully cooperated with law enforcement officials during their investigation and prosecution.
- Economic loss (medical expenses, wage loss, etc.) will total \$100 or more and has not been (or will not be) totally paid by other sources, except in cases of sexual abuse.
- The victim was not an accomplice to and did not commit a crime in connection with this incident (e.g. illegal gang activity, drug dealing). Victim must not have provoked or caused the injury or death.

The maximum allowable award of \$25,000 may include medical

expenses, counseling for victims and homicide survivors, lost wages/ support, replacement services, rehabilitation, travel to obtain treatment, replacement of clothing or bedding seized as evidence, and in some cases attorney fees (for claim preparation).

If you have any questions about the Crime Victims Compensation Board, please call (785) 296-2359.

#### CVCB Board Members

Glenda Cafer, Chair, Topeka  
Louis Johnson, Kansas City  
Paula S. Salazar, Wichita

#### CVCB Staff

Frank S. Henderson, Jr., Executive Director  
Dee Boeck, Investigator  
Tanya Hoyer-Rogers, Investigator  
Yolonda Newman, Accounting Specialist  
Phyllis Pankratz, Secretary  
Ramona Taylor, Office Assistant

## Update on SB 205

Every county in Kansas is now complying with the protection from abuse order filing requirement which was part of Senate Bill 205, passed during the 2001 legislative session. The provision states that protection from abuse orders, and orders amending existing orders, shall be entered into the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) protective order file and other appropriate databases. If the order is a foreign protective order, the sheriff's office shall contact the issuing jurisdiction to verify the order and request the entry of the order into NCIC and other databases. Emergency, temporary, and other related orders may also be entered into the NCIC protective order file.